Helping Sharif family repay loans

Aitzaz proposes formation of house body

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: Leader of the opposition in Senate, Aitzaz Ahsan, on Thursday proposed the establishment of a joint parliamentary committee to help the Sharif family repay their loans.

"To help the Sharif family relieve itself of the enormous burden, and to ensure that this payment is made in a transparent manner this matter should be implemented by a joint committee of parliament, with equal representation of the government and opposition and a with a chairman nominated by the leader of the opposition," he said.

Responding to the statement of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Mr Ahsan said it was good that the Sharif family had finally accepted that it had incurred burdensome financial liabilities requiring it to sell its properties to make the payments.

He said the loans, in the first instance, were heavily loaded, unjustified, beyond the capacity of the debtor and, therefore, the result of illegal favours. "This admission had come after demands that military courts be authorized to recover bank defaults," he said.

He said the Sharif family had the biggest portfolio of debt in the country. These debts, he said, had accumulated as a result of political influence of the family over the past 15 years. When the PPP government sought to recover these loans the Sharif family passed that time under stay orders of the courts.

Mr Ahsan said when an important scion of the Sharif family had himself admitted the enormous liability requiring sale of family assets, therefore, a joint committee of parliament be constituted to help the family in repayments in a transparent manner.

Proposing the terms of reference for the joint committee, Mr Ahsan said the committee should look into the following points:

1) What was the extent of the total debt owed by the Sharif family, including Benamidars and frontmen in Pakistan and abroad?

2) Whether any loan liability of the Sharif family, its Benamidars and frontmen has ever been written-off or rescheduled, and if so, whether that was done under political influence?"

3) Which particular loans or facilities were obtained by the Sharif family, or its Benamidars and frontmen during each of the periods when Mian Nawaz Sharif was Punjab's minister of finance and later chief minister and then prime minister of Pakistan.

4) What collateral securities were provided for the loans, and if these were sufficient?

5) Whether any loan or facility had been obtained abroad for any business of Sharif family, and if so, were these declared in Pakistan?

6) What were the properties, assets and undertakings owned or possessed by the Sharif family, its Benamidars and frontmen at home and abroad and were these sufficient to pay the outstanding liabilities, which the Punjab CM was anxious to pay back?

7) The committee should also be authorized to examine the tax liabilities of the Sharif family to ensure that a prime minister who only paid Rs477 in three years as income tax, did not evade taxes.

Mr Ahsan said that since the Sharif family had itself offered to repay its liabilities the joint committee of parliament would also determine the schedule of repayment.

He said in view of Mr Shahbaz Sharif's expressed desire, an early repayment should be facilitated and a schedule devised to do it within three months. "This good and necessary work will enable the prime minister and Punjab's chief minister to shed all debt and liability and all the assets that are the fruit of debts and loans as true rulers of an Islamic state," he concluded.

PWC opposes ordinance on WAPDA

By Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI, Dec 31: Pakistan Workers Confederation has opposed the Presidential Ordinance regarding WAPDA and said that even army could not save WAPDA from collapse unless and until agreements made with independent power producers(IPPs) were cancelled, the president of PWC, Gul Rehman, and secretary general Khurshid said in a press conference held at Rawalpindi Press Club on Wednesday.

"We respect our armed forces but even they cannot handle the situation in the present circumstances," they added.

The office-bearers of PWC said that confederation will show its power in Karachi in the start of the new year to press government to withdraw its decisions regarding privatization of WAPDA, Pakistan Railways, Pakistan Telecommunications Corporation, Port Trust etc.

The president PWC said that under the new Presidential Ordinance, the employees of WAPDA could be terminated forcibly without any notice. They said that the Ordinance was not only against constitution of the country and human right but it also a clear violation of ILO's conventions.

Labour policy next month, says minister

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: The federal minister for labour, manpower and overseas Pakistanis Shekih Rashid Ahmed has disclosed that after a lapse of 20 years, the new labour policy would be announced next month.

He was addressing the joint meeting of labour representatives and high officials of the ministry which met here to discuss the salient features of the upcoming National Labour and Manpower policy, here on Wednesday.

He said it was again the PML government which would earn the honour of announcing the much awaited labour policy. Sheikh Rashid said the views of labour organizations, industrialists and professionals would be sought and incorporated in the new policy. The ministry of labour, he added would hold a seminar on Jan 7 for the purpose. The details of this new labour policy would be announced in this seminar.

He disclosed that in the present policy, the great emphasis is being laid on manpower, training, human resource development and launching of employment schemes.

No decision on extension of quota system: Anwar

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: The government will soon be introducing a constitutional amendment bill to link the quota system in services with proposed special seats for women in the National Assembly.

"We are currently seeking the clearance of the prime minister for shortly moving a new constitutional amendment bill to continue the quota system for which we are linking it with women's seats in the lower house", said the Minister for Law and justice, Khalid Anwar.

He told *Dawn* here on Thursday that it was still to be decided whether the quota system in services should be extended for another 10 or 20 years. However, he did not elaborate as to why this was being linked with proposed special seats for women in the National Assembly.

Superior courts in the past had declared the quota system invalid and extended the last waiver in 1997 for appointments on quota basis.It has been challenged off and on since 1973 when constitutional provisions in this regard had lapsed.

KARACHI OPERATION: Responding to a question, the minister said it was not possible to determine how long the Karachi operation against terrorists and hardened criminals would continue.

He said he could say with authority that a good beginning had been made in Karachi to improve the law and order situation, specially after the setting up of military courts there.

Asked why the trial period had been extended from three days to eight days, the minister pointed out that it had been done at the request of military authorities who wanted more time to ensure justice with each case.

"The whole idea is to make it known that the military courts are quite impartial", he said.

Answering a question, Mr Anwar pointed out that the judge advocate general (JAG) branch of the army wanted to satisfy itself to the maximum extent before taking cases for the military courts.

To another question, he said some political and non-political elements were trying to destabilise Karachi situation, for which they would not be pardoned. He said time had come when the whole nation should condemn those who were out to disrupt peace in Karachi.

LHCBA demands judge's removal

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LHCBA president Dr Khalid Ranjha, Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan and former advocate-general Mian Abdus Sattar Najam.

The resolution said:

"1. The general attitude of Mr Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday with members of the Bar is derogatory to their status as officers of the court and the recent conduct reflected qua Sardar Mohammad Latif Khan Khosa, a senior advocate and member of the Pakistan Bar Council, who was neither before the court nor concerned in any way with the *lis* before the court under adjudication was outright insulting and contrary to the code of conduct for superior court judges.

"2. The learned judge's outburst against Mr Khosa over his defending two lawyers in a contempt case before a full bench, of which he was a member, was wholly unjustified, more so when the Lahore High Court had decided that case and appeal was pending before the Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan had allowed bail to one of the appellants, who had yet to serve his jail term, and the matter was thus *sub judice* before the apex court. The learned Judge's comment on Mr Khosa's challenge to the illegal and mala fide action of the Income Tax Department in blocking his bank accounts before the high court in its constitutional jurisdiction was appalling as it was his legal right and the ensuing relief a judicial obligation. There is hardly a day when Mr Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday, while presiding as a judge of the High Court, does not use unbecoming abusive and insulting language against advocates representing one or the other party.

"The conduct of the learned judge having thus become unbearable, this House resolves as follows:

"i) That a high powered medical board be constituted, including a senior physician and psychiatrist, to examine Mr Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday to determine His Lordship's physical and mental condition and to report if his outbursts are curable and whether, at all, the imbalance so frequently reflected does not blur the judgment and impair the equilibrium so essential to sagacious decisions in the adversarial system of justice.

"ii) That the President of Pakistan and the Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council (the Chief Justice of Pakistan) be sent a complaint against Mr Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday for initiating a reference for His Lordship's removal as judge of the High Court.

"iii) That contempt proceedings be initiated against Mr Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday as his conduct tantamounts (sic) to scandalizing and ridiculing the High Court and tends to lower the Superior Judiciary in public estimation.

"iv) That the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court be requested to withdraw all cases from Mr Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday till the medical examination is carried out and the Supreme Judicial Council draws proceedings and completes the same to its logical conclusion.

"v) That a committee consisting of the Pakistan Bar Council vice-chairman, executive chairman and members Hamid Khan, Rana Ijaz Ahmad and Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa; Punjab Bar Council vice-chairman, executive chairman and members Ramazan Chaudhry, Hafiz A.R. Ansari and C.M. Arif; and LHCBA president, vice- president and secretary be constituted to ensure complete respect to members of the Bar and oversee implementation of these decisions."

FROM PARLIAMENT — M. Ziauddin

Debate on Sindh continues

THE debate on the Sindh situation resumed in the National Assembly on Thursday. But before that, the opposition minus the MQM staged a walkout protesting against, what it termed, the inadequate explanation by the food and agriculture minister, Abdus Sattar Lalika, about atta shortage in the NWFP. Both Asfandyar Wali Khan and Haji Bilour of the ANP accused Lalika of not coming to grips with the real issue and instead trying to hide behind irrelevant statistics. The disagreement had followed a call attention notice by the ANP members on the issue.

Arif Khan of the MQM reopened the debate on the Sindh situation and like his party colleagues he, too, spoke for about five minutes but without making much sense. Gen Majid Malik, who defended the government actions in that province, was equally short on logic and long on reproof. The speeches made so far from either side (MQM and the government) have failed to establish either the complicity or the innocence of the MQM in the pre-governor rule violence and crime in Sindh.

However, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani of PPP(SB) delivered a highly persuasive speech. Very aptly he recalled the Tando Bahawal killings in 1992 to question the misplaced over-confidence of the government in the military courts. He asked the government to explain the real status of the Sindh assembly as it had been neither suspended nor dissolved. He also brought into question the very justification the government had used to bring to an end the democratic process in Sindh. The PPP(SB) leader made it all look like an after-thought. A frame-up. Only three members could speak on the subject on Thursday. The debate is expected to continue until all the remaining 14 have spoken.

Naveed Qamar of the PPP was understandably agitated at not finding on Thursday's order of the day the privilege motion the opposition had moved on Wednesday against the offloading of Benazir Bhutto from a Dubai-bound plane on Monday. The speaker had deferred the discussion on the admissibility of the motion by a day on Wednesday. The speaker was not there to explain his position. He had already left his seat before the issue was agitated by the PPP. The deputy speaker, Jafar Iqbal, who was in the chair, agreed with Naveed Qamar that as a matter of rule Thursday's order of the day should have included the privilege motion. He promised to look into the matter.

The government seems to have landed itself in a box in the matter of Ms Bhutto's offloading. Some government minions had admitted in an interview to a foreign radio station that the administration had offloaded her because it was expecting the courts to give verdicts in a day or two in some of the cases of alleged corruption she was facing. Another reason given for this extraordinary action was that her absence from the country would cause unnecessary delays in the hearing of the cases, some of which were coming to a close.

But the courts by allowing her to go abroad have given a lie to both these reasons. When opposing the admissibility of the privilege motion the government will have to come up with a more plausible defence than the argument that since she has been allowed to go out of the country the motion has become infructuous. Therefore, the government's reluctance on Thursday to allow the motion to come up for discussion, perhaps. It would be interesting to see how the government would try to extricate itself from the box on Friday.

Since not much was happening inside the hall, the corridors and the lobbies became more interesting. And the most popular question on everybody's lips there was: Why did they offload her when the courts had not barred her from travelling abroad? Perhaps to give the opposition one more handle to beat the government with? But some others had a more ridiculous explanation: The government was testing the waters to gauge the reaction of PPP workers at large. Preparing to arrest her, finally? To disqualify her, perhaps?

Parliament grapevine has it that her partners in the PAI have started putting pressure on Ms Bhutto to come to some understanding with them on seat distribution in the next elections, which they are expecting to be held soon. Their own demand: 75 seats with the following break-up: 50 for Tahirul Qadri's Minhajul Quran, 10 each for PML (Chattha) and Aslam Beg's Awami Qiadat, five for PML (Q) and two for Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Ms Bhutto so far is said to have resisted this demand and instead has promised to make seat adjustments at the time of elections. The PAI partners are also said to have asked the PPP to give a public undertaking that when and if the alliance won the next elections, the government would be called that of PAI's and not of the PPP's.

Power crisis in Karachi severe: Gohar

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increasing surveillance and monitoring by special campaign for eradication of tampering by steel furnaces, and incentive package for reporting theft.

To a question by Mian Muhammad Munir about the installation of electricity meters in tribal areas, the minister disclosed that the meters were being installed at industrial units, commercial users and government institutions in FATA.

He added that the government was in consultation with NWFP governor, parliamentarians belonging to FATA and the government authorities to make the private consumers in tribal areas, also ready to pay for the electricity. He, however, said the government was complacent towards the private consumers and did not want any stringent action.

The minister also ruled out any possible reduction in electricity tariff. To a question by Prof A K Shams, the minister said 1,494 villages would be provided with electricity during the financial year 1998-99.

In response to a question about the IPPs asked by Syed Naveed Qamar, the minister said a total of 8 IPPs had so far settled the matter of tariff reduction with the government. He added that negotiations with other IPPs were in progress. Denying that the government intended to cancel all other contracts, he said, the government intended to treat all projects on merit. "Only those projects will be terminated which have violated the agreements catered upon with the government of Pakistan."

SBP sees GDP growth at 4pc in new year

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year is likely to decline from 3.2 per cent of GDP during 1997-98 to 3 per cent of GDP (in 1998-99)," the report adds.

It says money supply went up by 2.3 per cent during 1st July-28th November 1998 compared to a larger expansion of 6 per cent in the same period last year.

The report says although the economy has passed through a period of turbulence in the first six months of the current fiscal year the performance for the year as a whole may turn out to be "quite reasonable."

While reviewing the performance of the economy in the last fiscal year the report said GDP growth rate recovered from a record low of 1.3 per cent in 1996-97 to 5.4 per cent against the target of 5.5-6 per cent.

The report said that in certain areas the performance of the economy "would have been less than satisfactory even if no adverse external shocks had taken place in May 1998. This was particularly so in the budgetary area."

"While expenditures were kept in check and budget deficit was lower than last year, it concealed poor revenue performance and slow progress in effecting structural budgetary reforms," said the report. It said CBR's revenue in fact declined from 12.4 per cent of GDP in 1995-96 to 11.7 per cent in 1996-97 and further to 10.6 per cent in 1997-98. "The situation was saved by the decline in world prices of oil which, instead of being passed on to the consumer in the form of lower retail prices, were utilized to realise higher receipts from petroleum surcharge which offset the poor performance of CBR."

"On the expenditure side, development expenditure were cut down further from 3.4 per cent of GDP in 1996-97 to 3.2 per cent (in 1997-98) while interest payment on debt increased from 6.4 per cent to 6.9 per cent." Defence expenditure also declined from 5.1 per cent of GDP to 4.9 per cent.

It said inflation as measured by CPI fell from 11.8 per cent in 1996-97 to 7.8 per cent well within the target of 9 per cent.

It said gross national savings as percentage of GNP (gross national product) rose to 14.5 per cent against the target of 13.8 per cent in 1997-98 from 11.3 per cent in 1996-97.

The report said Pakistan met all the end-March performance criteria under the ESAF/EFF programme with the IMF and data up to the end of May 1998 indicated that the economy was on track for meeting the performance criteria for June 1998. It did not spell out the criteria.

The report said the outstanding level of external debt rose by $1.9 billion to $29.7 billion at the end of 1997-98. It said debt service payments both on account of long, medium and short term debt, fell from $5.1 billion in 1996-97 to $4.7 billion mainly on account of lower amortization payments.

It said total national debt stood at Rs2518 billion or 91.2 per cent of the GDP at the end of June 1998.

The report said overall fiscal deficit declined from 6.3 per cent of GDP in 1996-97 to 5.4 per cent in 1997-98 missing the target of 5 per cent.

Government expenditures stood at Rs599.6 billion showing a 10.8 per cent increase over the expenditures in 1996-97 but were within the budgeted amount of Rs610 billion. It said the current account of the balance of payments declined from $3.8 billion in 1996-97 to $2.1 billion during 1997-98 adding the improvement was the combined result of lower trade deficit and services accounts and higher workers remittances.

The report reveals that current account deficit (excluding official transfers) was largely financed by net inflows of $1.4 billion of long and short term loans, $0.8 billion of foreign investment and $0.2 billion of official transfers, partly offset by net outflows of $0.6 billion under non-resident foreign currency deposits.

The report recommends that while efforts at containing current expenditure should continue, public revenue should be increased not only to meet the revenue requirements budget but to generate surplus for capital budget as well.

"This requires restructuring of the tax system," the report says adding that provincial governments have to mobilize additional resources and public sector enterprises need to be revamped and made profit-generating.

The report says the policy to involve private sector in the production process needs to be pursued more vigorously. "In the public sector, provision of utilities and infrastructure should be the main activity while all other productive activity should be left to be undertaken by the private sector." The report says the banking reforms should be continued with particular focus on reduction of defaulted loans, increasing the share of private sector in banking industry, introduction of deposit insurance, separation of ownership and management, right-sizing of financial institutions and further strengthening of prudential regulation especially in terms of capital adequacy.

Terming the huge national debt of Rs 2518 billion at the end of fiscal 1997-98 as its servicing as "a major national problem," the report says the size of the debt needs to be contained to manageable limits. It says this can be achieved through various policy measures, including debt retirement through the use of privatization proceeds and sale of government property, and by offering shares of public sector enterprises to holders of debt.

"Similarly, dependence on foreign debt should be reduced."

The report recommends that the reliance on traditional items of exports be reduced and export diversification and expansion of export of agriculture and agro-based products be encouraged.

"Finally...it is important that debt creating sources for financing balance of payments deficit are replaced by direct foreign investment and short-term external liabilities are replaced by medium-term debt instruments. The best policy, however, is to promote self-reliance by increasing national saving and promoting consumption austerity."

Nawaz's visit to AJK will yield positive results: Sultan

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD, Dec 31: AJK Prime Minister, Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, said here on Thursday that Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif had great interest in the development and progress of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and his (Sharif's) Wednesday's visit to Muzaffarabad would yield positive results, in this regard.

According to an official handout, he said this while addressing the members of his cabinet and other party leaders at the PM House here. Sultan Mahmood claimed that Mr Sharif had agreed to meet the AJK's budget deficit besides providing special grant for uplift of Azad Kashmir.

The AJK PM had presented a number of demands to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during the later's brief visit to Muzaffarabad to attend the AJK Council meeting on Wednesday.

These demands included provision of Rs1 billion as special grant to overcome AJK's budget deficit provision of Sui gas to Muzaffarabad and Mirpur; construction of airport in Mirpur; construction of RCC bridges on river Jhelum at Dhan Gali and Azad Patan; repair and widening of the major AJK roads, linking the state to Pakistan through National Highway Authority; establishment of science and technology institute and national computer centre in Mirpur and Muzaffarabad, respectively; construction of sports complex in Muzaffarabad; setting up of a national park in Pir Chinasi near Muzaffarabad, package for promotion of tourism and initiation of the "Tameer-e-Watan" programme in Azad Kashmir.

Sultan Mahmood said the response of Mr Sharif regarding these demands was very positive and sympathetic. He said that he had also taken up the issue of the royalty of the Mangla Dam and the income of the Jammu Kashmir state property with Mr Sharif.

He said soon he would be meeting with Premier Sharif in Islamabad to discuss in detail these vital issues.

The AJK PM told his colleagues that he had also discussed strategy to effectively raise and project the just cause of the Kashmiris at the international level. He said he had suggested that Kashmir desks be established in all important foreign missions of Pakistan and the Kashmiris should be appointed to run these desks.

Sultan Mahmood said he also expressed gratitude on behalf of the Kashmiris for the strong and valuable support of Pakistan to their just cause.

Japanese peace team due today

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: A seven-member Japanese Aichi Peace Committee delegation arrives on a two-day visit of the city on Friday.

The delegation comprising survivors of Hiroshima will participate in various functions and programmes, according to a statement of the Action Committee Against Arms Race.

The visitors will open an anti-nuclear photo exhibition at the PMA House on Friday afternoon. They will also participate in a workers meeting at the Hall Institute, at Cantonment Station, on Saturday afternoon.

The delegation, led by Miyuki Kamezawa, comprises Yasuo Endo, Takashi Matsui, Shin Nishimoto, Takatsugu Honda, Ai Takada and Tomoko Fukuda.

Shamshad to visit Tehran

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: Foreign Secretary, Shamshad Ahmad will leave here on Friday for Tehran as the special envoy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for talks with his Iranian counterpart on the entire range of bilateral matters as well as regional issues of mutual concern, particularly Afghanistan. —APP

N-blasts have added to country's pride: Qadeer

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: It was in 1998, on May 28 and 30, that Pakistan added a new chapter of courage, pride, self-respect and valour to its history.

These observations were expressed by renowned nuclear scientist Dr A. Q. Khan while extending his felicitations for the new year.

Dr Khan said: "the combined strength of all of us enabled us to see the light of the day when we could be counted among the only seven countries of the globe having a nuclear capability." Furthermore, it was during this year that Pakistan successfully test-fired its intermediate range ballistic missile, "Ghauri", he said.

"Now, as we knock at the doors of 1999, it is time for all of us to forge unity in our ranks and join hands to make Pakistan a great country of the world in all respects. As the nation faces new challenges, particularly in the economic sector, I have all the faith that our joint efforts can thwart all such challenges," he added.

Record recovery of Rs33.20m

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR, Dec 31: The customs checkpost at Torkham have made a record recovery of Rs33.20m in the first half of the current fiscal year, which is about Rs7.5m higher than the target.

According to details, the customs checkpost at Torkham was given a target of Rs50m for the current year. It, however, succeeded in recovering more than half of the same in first six months, a raise believed to have been achieved due to excessive transaction of goods.

5,000 sacked UBL officers seek MPs' help

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: Over 5,000 sacked officers of the UBL have sought help from the members of parliament in the reinstatement of those employees whose reinstatement have been recommended by the review committee of parliament set up by the prime minister.

In a SOS to the members of the National Assembly and Senate, these sacked employees have referred to the prime minister's announcement at the Overseas Investors Conference in December last to reinstate the retrenched officers.

They appealed to the members of parliament to raise this issue on the floor of both the houses and exert pressure on the bank's management to reinstate them and save them and their families from further starvation and suffering.

These retrenched officers are leading a very miserable life and their plight is unexplainable. They even face starvation and their innocent little kids have been deprived of education.

According to these officers, the president of UBL appointed hundreds of retrenched officers of the Citibank as "consultants", and was paying them three times higher salary than the salary of the sacked officers.

The government constituted a subcommittee of the cabinet under the chairmanship of Pir Sabir Shah, political advisor to the prime minister, to look into the matter and redress the grievances of the sacked officers.

This committee held its meeting in Dec last and called for appeals from retrenched officers, who neither received their dues from the UBL nor had any litigations against the government/bank. As a result, some 1,142 affectees approached this committee out of which only 298 were recommended and passed by the UBL's president. The committee decided to re-employ these officers in other financial institutions, but so far no substantial progress have been made. Neither a single officer has been reinstated or re-employed, nor any of them received any salary and benefits as promised by the prime minister.

Creation of task force on curricula stressed

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: The participants of a two-day conference on curricula have demanded of the federal government to constitute an effective task force on curricula to get useful suggestions proposed by the educationists.

They also stressed the need to appoint teachers in the schools only with bachelor degree to arrest the falling standard of education.

The conference was arranged by the curricula wing of the ministry of education to recognize the future socio-economic and cultural needs of education in the country.

The participants submitted following recommendations for the implementation.

-There is a need for the incorporation of examples from daily life in the textual material.

- Revision of books incorporating indigenous examples as the children observe in their surroundings.More emphasis was desired on illustrations to prove the concepts.

- Books should be reflective of Islamic national heritage. In the Social Science area the freedom movement in socio-cultural orientation be highlighted. In certain areas, sequence of difficulty level be ascertained.

- In physical and biological science, teaching methodologies should be lecture-cum- demonstration and there should be greater emphasis on laboratory practicals. The concept taught in theory classes should be translated in laboratory practical as well.

- Pre-service and in-service training of teacher of school should be in a way that they should be made to realize the disciplines and importance of curricula at all levels.

- Teachers should be suitably paid to enhance their social status.Similarly, they should be exposed to regular in service training after some regular periods to enhance their teaching abilities.

- To ensure quality education, the examination and the assessment of the curricula up to class IV be performed by the respective schools.At middle level, elementary boards be constituted to examine the students at Grade-VIII. For class IX onward, the examination should be conducted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education on annual basis.

- For quality evaluation, the need of training of paper-setters at all level should also be considered.

- Weightage to comprehension and applications of the subjects should be given.

- Provision of subjects to science students at Higher Secondary levels be extended beyond the Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics to Computer Science, Electronics, Economics, Statistics.

- Rigid division of subjects between Medical and Engineering students be eliminated.

- Present National Curricula although under constant review, still places undue emphasis on rote memorization and has very limited relevance to real life problems. It hardly promotes creativity and innovation which are essential for all human endeavours. Recent developments in Biology, Chemistry, Electronics, Physics, and informatics are expected to revolutionalize the pattern of life as we move into the next century, therefore this sector also needs immediate and positive attention by the policy makers.

Two killed; one injured

By Our Correspondent

MARDAN, Dec 31: Two persons were murdered and a third was seriously injured as a result of exchange of firing near Katlang, 20km away from here, on Thursday.

In the first incident, Mohammad Umar and his wife, Sherin Baha, brutally killed his father, Janat Khan, and later on threw his body in the well of their house.

In another case, in the same area, Jamshed and Arif allegedly gunned down Israp after an altercation at Katlang public stand. A case has been registered against the accused.